



**A**ND as concerning this man, he from his youth up had desires after the Lord, and he was often checked by his father because of his solidity, he mourned mightily after the Lord while he was yet a child, yea and panted after the God that made him, he followed the zealous professors, and increased mightily in that knowledge which stands in the comprehension, yea exceeded many of his equals; but at last the Lord separated him for his own glory, and sent him forth in his own power and eternal name, so he lead him by the hand through the wilderness, and bore up his head above the waves which sought to destroy him, he became a talk and a by-word unto them with whom (before) he had his conversation, yea they sought to destroy him in a moment, but yet the Lord lead him in the way and gave him the threshing instrument that belongs to worme ~~Aras~~ despised of men, and he threshed and beat the hills to dust and rooted up the disobedient that despised Gods coming, he spared not but cut on the right hand and flew on the left, and made the arrows of his quiver to strike into the bowels of Gods enemies, but he preached peace to the captive; and uttered his voice to the Prisoners of hope, which lay groaning for deliverance, he was sent to publish Salvation and to cry the acceptable year of redemption, though the Rulers of the earth dealt very hardly with him, and the Priests cryed away with him, he is now worthy to live, the professors envied him because of his upright dealing, and the prophane hated and reviled him because of his innocent life, he was often times cast into seasonally prisons, he was divers times whipt with cords, he was halid before Magistrates, that had no pity nor compassion of him, he divers times adventured upon hard service, and broke through a host of wicked and wretched men, the Priests fell before him like Tow, and the professors were scattered like chaffe, the wicked and prophane were even confounded and amazed when his arrows so sharp did enter within their dark dwellings

to the food he uttered his voice, and it dropped like wax into the bowels of the tender hearted: verily the consideration thereof doth even melt my heart and makes me to say, oh how delightful was the pleasantness of thy beauty! and how desirable was the habitation of thy dwelling, and how prevalent were thy prayers and thy supplications, with thy God, who answered thee every morning, and satisfied thy soul every moment, which made thy cup to overflow, and the pleasures streamers to run over its banks, because of the fulness thereof, and woe to him that lifts up a tongue against thee, and let him not be reckoned among the congregations of the righteous, that slanders thy innocent life, let him be smitten with terror that whispers or speaks evil of thee in a corner, for I know the Lord loved thee, and hath taken thee from the evil that is to come upon the inhabitants of the earth, and out of this dark world that ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> not worthy of thee. But to proceed, he was visiting friends in and near *London*, and he told some of them therewith that he had a narrow path to pass through, he said also, that several daies before he was taken up, he saw that he should be imprisoned, and that it might cost him his life, and taking his leave of friends in those parts, he set forward in the will of the Lord Westward, and having a meeting at *Alton*, some envious men hearing thereof, sent armed men to the house where he was, commanding him forth, and having him before *Humphrey Bennet*, & *John Norton*, Deputy Lieutenants of the countrey, both great enemies to Gods truth, and though he gave a good account of his business which was to visit his son which was a child farther Westward, yet they without pity or compassion equity or justice committed him to the stinking close Prison of *Winchester*, but to leave them without excuse in the day of the Lord which hastens to come upon them, he wrote wright soon unto them signifying how illegally they had dealt with him, also sent them back an answer to that which they charged against him, likewise shewing that they laid nothing to his charge but what was charged against Gods servants in the daies of old, and moreover pro-

ved unto them that they had acted contrary to the Kings law  
Declaration and word, yet though all this and much more  
might be written, both of his usage in the Prison, and likewise  
how close a hole it was, sometimes other Prisoners Felons  
such taking his food from him, and other abuses which he  
bore very patiently, which will be too tedious at present to re-  
late, and likewise *John Norton* and *Humphery Bennet* sending  
men and robbing him of all his Papers, rifeling his pockets  
boxes, and other places, yet he was very quiet and lay down  
content, but the next approaching Sessions being come, he  
laid something of his suffering cause before some of those cal-  
led Justices, and at that time some of them were willing to  
have released him, but some others of them being contrary  
minded, saying that it was the Deputy Lieverebants of the  
Sheir that committed him, and because they were not there  
they would not meddle with the thing, so the innocent suffer-  
er was let continue a prisoner till the next Assizes, and he then  
laid the thing before Judge *Terril* who before had been pri-  
vately moderate to friends, and the judge gave him this answer,  
that if he would give bail for his good behaviour & appearance  
at the next Assizes, (though no evil behavior at all was laid to  
his charge) which when this innocent sufferer heard, and be-  
ing satisfied that he was not guilty of the breach of any law,  
neither was there any that laid any such thing to his charge, he  
was content to remain there rather then do such a thing, so  
remaining there from Sessions till Sizes, and from Sizes till  
Sessions, and until that Sizes a whole year was over, then Judge  
*Terril* came again the Western Circuit, which *Humphery*  
*Smith* hearing of, wrote unto him, signifying how contrary to  
any known law he had been dealt with, and requiring Justice,  
and that true judgement might proceed from him, and leaving  
him without excuse he sent it to him which he understood he  
read, and about the latter end of the Assizes he was called, for  
where having divers words with the Judge, he again said that  
if he would give bail for his good behavior and appearance at  
the next Assizes he should be released, which he answered thus  
that

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he had lain in Prison so long and nothing of evil behav-  
ior laid to his charge, and likewise saying that if any man there  
could convince him of any evil behavior, he should willingly  
acknowledge the same, unto which they were all silent, then  
the Judge said if he would meet no more and promise not to  
break the law he should be released, unto which he answered  
thus, I think it is sufficient that I suffer if I do break the law,  
and not to suffer because I cannot promise not to break it, say-  
ing also that he knew no law that required any such thing, so  
it being near the time of their breaking up, he was put aside,  
and others called, and soon after they dismissed the Court for  
that Aftizes at that Bench, but as the Judge was passing forth,  
*Humphrey Smith* being in the Barr among the Fellons, he  
spake these words unto him, Friend, remember I have been  
above a whole year in prison and no breach of any law proved  
against me, which the Judge heard, but passed away and said  
nothing to it, so he was had back to prison again, where ha-  
ving been not above three weeks but he fell sick, first it took  
him like an Ague, and afterward with the Feaver following it,  
and in short time it grew very violent upon him, in so much  
that in five daies time he was so weak that he could scarcely  
help himself, then he also sent a letter unto Judge *Terril*, sig-  
nifying his illegal dealing with him, and also gave him to know  
that he was very ill, but there was little done in the thing, so  
he grew weaker and weaker, so that two men did turn him in  
his bed, and in the time of his sickness he spake several peti-  
ous words to friends, signifying unto them that he was given  
up in the will of the Lord, either in life or death, and as he lay  
under a great fit of the feaver, he said my heart is filled with  
the power of God, and then said, It is good for a man at such  
a time as this to have the Lord to be his friend; another time  
he said, Lord thou sendest me forth to do thy will, and I have  
been faithful unto thee in my small measure which thou hast  
committed unto me, but if thou wilt yet try me further, Thy  
will be done, also he said, I am the Lords, let him do what he  
will, and near the time of his departure, he cryed earnestly  
unto.

unto the Lord, and said, O Lord hear the inward  
 and groans of thine oppressed, and deliver my  
 soul from the oppressor, O Lord heere me, O Lord uphold  
 preserve me, (I know that my Redeemer liveth) Thou  
 strong and mighty O Lord, with several other precious words.  
 Also about the same time he prayed unto the Lord that  
 would deliver his people from their cruel oppressors, and  
 that those that were convinced or brought forth by him, the  
 the Lord would be their teacher, he lay very quiet and still  
 and not any unlavory word proceeded out of his mouth  
 the time of his sickness, but he behaved himself like a Lamb,  
 and he was very sensible unto the last moment, he was faith-  
 full unto the Lord in his day, and a Crown everlasting is upon  
 his head, which shall rest upon him, when all his oppressors  
 shall gnash their tongues for pain and vexation of heart, (as  
 some of them have felt already) yea and the full cup of the  
 Lords indignation is preparing for all them who delight in  
 cruelty, he was very meek and of a quiet spirit, very loving to  
 all that had the least appearance of the light springing up in  
 them, yea if any knew not the light which condemns the flesh,  
 then in the meekness of the love everlasting, he would open  
 unto them the way thereunto, and labour mightily to bring  
 them to the knowledge of it, oh how great was his love to the  
 eternal truth which abounded in his heart, and how would he  
 groan for the lost sheep, surely his love was more then my  
 tongue can expresse, and his courage did abound in a great  
 measure, he delighted not in vain janglings nor disputings of  
 men of corrupt minds, but in the simplicity of the Gospel of  
 peace which is his crown for ever and ever, what shall I say,  
 his life is swallowed up in immortallity, and is no more to be  
 seen in the visible, yet he reignes over all whisperers, backbi-  
 ters and slanderers of his innocent life for ever.

Thou renowned Judge in Israel, thou valiant Souldier of  
 the Lambs Host, peace is thy portion for ever, blessings will  
 fill thine house and faithfulness will attend thy seed, as they a-  
 bide in the counsel of him who was the Bishop of thy soul.

N. C.

But



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and their own selves (if you can) of the lives of God's people  
which hath died in your sinners, but it is your duty  
to be to you Rulers of England, what shall I say unto you,  
that you needs be made a perpetual reproach unto all  
that come after you, and to your delight wholly in persecu-  
tion of the innocents, oh cruel men, oh merciless men, will  
you but the lives of God's dear servants satisfy your blood-  
thirst, surely the Lord God will visit you in his wrath,  
and sweep you away in his sore displeasure, yea in the dread-  
ful flames of the burnings of his vengeance will he cast you,  
oh you unsatiable, vigorous, Tiranical, Idolatrous, men,  
what is cruelty your delight? and is it blood that you thirst  
for, as after wine, which will not satiate your insatiable de-  
sires, and is it nothing but the eternal death which you  
would not have so much as come into your coasts, you worse  
then Barbarians, how do you evilly intreat those who come  
in the love of the Lord, to preach repentance in your streets,  
and you take away the eyes of such who come to publish sal-  
vation unto poor sinners, surely your unjust dealings is come  
before the God whom you so much contemne in his ser-  
vants, and your unrighteous actions against them whom he  
hath sent in his own name is pierced into the bowels of the  
God of the humble hearted, who will surely plead with you in  
his indignation, and utterly destroy you in his wrath, if you  
repent not speedily, and humble your selves under his righteous  
judgements: wherefore I say repent repent, for the consummation  
is at hand, yea the swift vengeance of the eternal God  
is nigh to be revealed upon all the disobedient, and the ter-  
rible woe and calamity of all the merciless, (with the cruel  
hearted) is coming) yea nigh to come) which shall make  
a final end of all the rebellious and stiffnecked ones, whose  
hearts are hard as the Adamant, wherefore awake, awake,  
sleep not in your wickedness in this day which is coming, as  
a thief in the night upon you, but arise up from cruelty, and  
shake your selves of the garments of the pollution of blood,  
which hath stained you, cleanse your selves of your Idolatry,  
and

and clear your selves (if you can) of the lives of Gods servants which hath died in your Prisons, but if you cannot know be it unprophetic that God will not spare the blood of those that have had a hand in these things: (and shall be therein) but will destroy them mercifully, and curse them for his offences for evermore: and in this I shall be clear of your blood when it comes upon you.

### Nichols Complains.

Written the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
the 11<sup>th</sup> month.

THE END.

Printed for M. W.



